THE Shadow STRIKES!
SHADOW STRIKES
7
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"...TO CLOUD MEN'S MINDS!"
by Gerard Jones & Rick Magyar
ON AIR
WOW
EDUARDO BARRETO

WITH JOHNNY DC

Doug Moench has not been seen in our pages in a while but he has come back with an armload of assignments and projects, both new and old. Doug starts off by picking up the reins on BLACKHAWK, starting with #12, and then adds MISTER MIRACLE, with #14. Those two books will continue their current storylines as Doug gets a feel for the characters and plans for their futures . . . Meantime, Doug has some proposals being considered and is looking forward to working with his frequent collaborator, **Paul Gulacy**, on a five-part LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT story . . . **Tom Artis** also steps in to help out the very busy **Rick Burchett** by pencilling a few issues of BLACKHAWK, also starting with #12. Rick will continue to ink these issues and provide the covers . . .

Beginning with the second storyline in the *Batman* syndicated strip, the creative team becomes **William Messner-Loebs, Carmine Infantino,** and **John Nyberg.** The villain for that second story will be The Penguin as 1990 becomes, quite obviously, the year of the Penguin . . .

Anton Furst, the man who designed Gotham City for the *Batman* movie, dropped by the DC offices in mid-November, and met with **Jenette Kahn, Dick Giordano,** and **Denny O'Neil**—we'll see what comes of those discussions in coming months . . . Anton is also working on preproduction for *The Watchmen,* at 20th Century-Fox . . .

The Delphi Group, an international organization of artists, paid a visit to the DC offices recently. **Archie Goodwin** played host as he talked them through how American comics were assembled. The group also spoke with **Dick Giordano** and **Jenette Kahn** before enjoying a wine and cheese reception with the editors. The one American in the group that day turned out to be the delightful **Colleen Doran,** who last did a story for CHRISTMAS WITH THE SUPER-HEROES and has some other projects being lined up for the future . . .

The British invasion of our shores continued in November as we were visited by both **Neil Gaiman** and **Brian Bolland.** Neil arrived amidst of a flurry of visits, meetings, and discussions mostly revolving around his current projects, including SANDMAN and THE BOOKS OF MAGIC, but he also met with some people about new projects which you'll be hearing about in the future . . . Brian arrived in a more subdued manner, having participated in two conventions on the East Coast. He did some cover sketches, talked about life, and renewed acquaintances with editors. Brian is now going to be the regular cover artist on BATMAN, which should be a treat for fans . . .

Mark Ryan, an actor best known for his role in the Britain-produced *Robin Hood* series (seen here on Showtime), also came by in November. He was joined by **Mike Grell** and the two huddled with **Mike Gold** about some project that seemed dipped in sorcery but no one was saying. Mark is also a screen writer with some credits to his name and is eager to expand his horizons. Mike and Mike also discussed business on GREEN ARROW, including a spin-off mini-series Mike would write for next summer, with details to follow . . .

Much closer to home, we were given a rare visit from Connecticut's **Curt Swan,** who happened to be in town for the day. Curt, looking and sounding fit, talked about doing some more Aquaman stories for editor **Kevin Dooley** and agreed to do an odd cover for LEGION, co-pencilled with **Keith Giffen** . . . Also coming from Connecticut for visits were inkers **Mike DeCarlo** and **Steve Montano.** They met with their editors and talked about future work . . .

Bill Jaaska does his first work for DC when he pencils CHECKMATE! #26, written by **Paul Kupperberg.** Inking that issue will be **Michael Bair,** who did a bang-up job on DOC SAVAGE #15-16 . . . Bill and Michael will also be doing some future issues, as will **Tom Grindberg,** who is warming up for a major project for DC in 1990 . . .

Former DC editor and inker **Tex Blaisdell** also paid a visit in November. Tex is currently teaching at the Kubert School of Cartoon Art and occasionally inking a job or two . . . The Kubert School, in turn, was visited by **Dick Giordano** and **Jonathan Peterson** as we renewed our relationship with the school and its students. For those who don't know, some of the graduates currently working for us include **Jan Duursema** and **Ron Randall,** along with **Andy Kubert** and **Adam Kubert** . . .

Pablo Marcos became a grandfather recently, as his son, **Pablo Jr.** and his wife, **America,** had a little girl, also named **America** . . . Pablo continues to work on STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION, although he is taking a few months off from JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE . . . **Bart Sears** stretches as an artist by inking issues 11 and 12 of JLE, which **Chris Sprouse** steps in to pencil #13, to give Bart a breather . . . Newcomer **Linda Medley** also gets in on the JLE act by pencilling not only the JLE ANNUAL but also JLE #14 . . .

Val Semeiks came down from the Northeast to visit with **Dan Raspler** as the two sketched out some BATMAN covers and talked about a new project Val is drawing for Dan. Details will also be revealed in a forthcoming column . . . Meantime, Dan has been busily sprucing up the SUICIDE SQUAD as it enters its fourth year. Issues #40-43 comprise "The Phoenix Gambit" and totally rebuild the team and give it a new purpose. But first, Amanda Waller spends a year in the Belle Reve slammer and it takes both Sarge Steel and Batman to persuade her to come back to work . . . Sounds like quite a story and it is from **John Ostrander** and **Kim Yale,** along with **Geof Isherwood,** who takes over pencils and inks beginning with #40. To commemorate the event, Geof has produced a poster which is being bound into issue #40 with no increase in cover price . . .

Finally, **Dale Crain,** late of Fantagraphics, joined our staff recently as an art director, and we're thrilled to have him aboard as our Design Department grows by leaps and bounds . . .

More . . . next month!

—Johnny DC

DC LIST THIS WEEK

ATLANTIS CHRONICLES 1
Beginning a seven-part exploration of Atlantis's rich history from Arion to Aquaman, by Peter David and Esteban Maroto. ◆▶

SGT. ROCK SPECIAL 7
Three classic war stories with Sgt. Rock (art by Joe Kubert), the Losers (art by Jack Kirby), and Tomahawk (art by Frank Thorne). ●

LOONEY TUNES MAGAZINE 2
Celebrating Bugs Bunny's 50th Anniversary, a mixture of jokes, stories, games, puzzles and more with the entire Looney Tunes gang. ▶

THE QUESTION 35
Priorities are decided as Myra, Vic, and Hub City come to terms with their future . . . and what they need not just to survive but to live. Guest-starring Richard Dragon! ◆▶▲

THE SHADOW STRIKES! 7
When a young theatrical genius starts producing a radio show about the Shadow, the Shadow wants it stopped—until criminals strike back. ■▶

ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS 16
Vajra's desperate gambit takes her to a showdown on the astral plane . . . to determine the fate of her friends . . . and her freedom. ■▶

DR. FATE 15
Wotan has defeated Dr. Fate . . . and the Justice League. Who can stop him? ■▶

LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT 5
Concluding Shaman, The Batman fights for Alfred's life . . . and against a maniacal cult. ◆▶

NEW GODS 14
He's Reflektor. And he's come to Earth for Lightray and Eve Donner. ■▶

THE PHANTOM 13
Our final issue finds The Phantom fighting for his life to clear his name and be free to marry Diana. Are the odds too great even for him? ■▶

GREEN ARROW 30
Green Arrow comes face to face with the captain of the oil tanker . . . and decides to take the matter of retribution in his own hands. ■▶▲

CAPTAIN ATOM 39
Megala has one last chance to cure his terminal illness—Captain Atom. But Captain Atom wants no part of it. ●▶

DETECTIVE COMICS 612
A feline killer menaces Gotham City. Batman isn't sure if it's Catwoman, Catman or even a man-eating tiger. ●

JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE 12
Metamorpho must fight for his son . . . against the Metal Men! ●

SUICIDE SQUAD 39
Publicly exposed by the Loa as the Squad's leader, Amanda is forced to resign as leader—but first she wants just a little revenge. ●▶

ACTION COMICS 651
The second coming of Maxima. Superman barely slipped through her fingers six months ago. This time she intends to grab him and hold on! ●

LEGEND

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- ■ New Format
- ◆ Deluxe Format
- ▶ Available at Select Outlets
- ★ Prestige Format
- □ Graphic Novel
- ◫ Collected Edition
- ▲ Suggested for Mature Readers

BUT WE CAN'T REWRITE NOW, GROVER. THE AUDIENCE IS ALREADY--
WE CAN-- WE WILL REWRITE WHENEVER WE MUST! BETWEEN ACTS, IF I FEEL WE REQUIRE IT!
WE HAVE TO SEND SHOCK-WAVES DOWN BROADWAY WITH THIS, SINKY. EPATER LES BOURGEOISIE. THIS PLAY COULD MAKE THEATRICAL TITANS OF US ALL!
LOOKS LIKE A PRETTY GOOD HOUSE, TOO, FOR A FEDERAL THEATER PROJECT. IF WE CAN--
GROVER!
THEY'VE CLOSED US, GROVER! WASHINGTON'S ORDERED THE THEATER CLOSED! SOMEONE RAISED A STINK ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT FUNDING A COMMUNIST PLAY!
WHAT... COWARDICE!
WHAT FEBRILE... PINCH-FACED... KNUCKLE-TWISTING...
I KNEW THEY WERE ALL FASCISTS! I KNEW THEY'D SHOW THEIR TRUE COLORS ONE DAY!
WE'LL HAVE TO REFUND THE AUDIENCE'S MONEY, AND...
THERE MUST BE A GAMBIT. THERE IS ALWAYS A...
CURTAIN! CURTAIN!
GROVER... WHAT...?
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!
A BODKIN HAS BEEN THRUST INTO THE BREAST OF ART!

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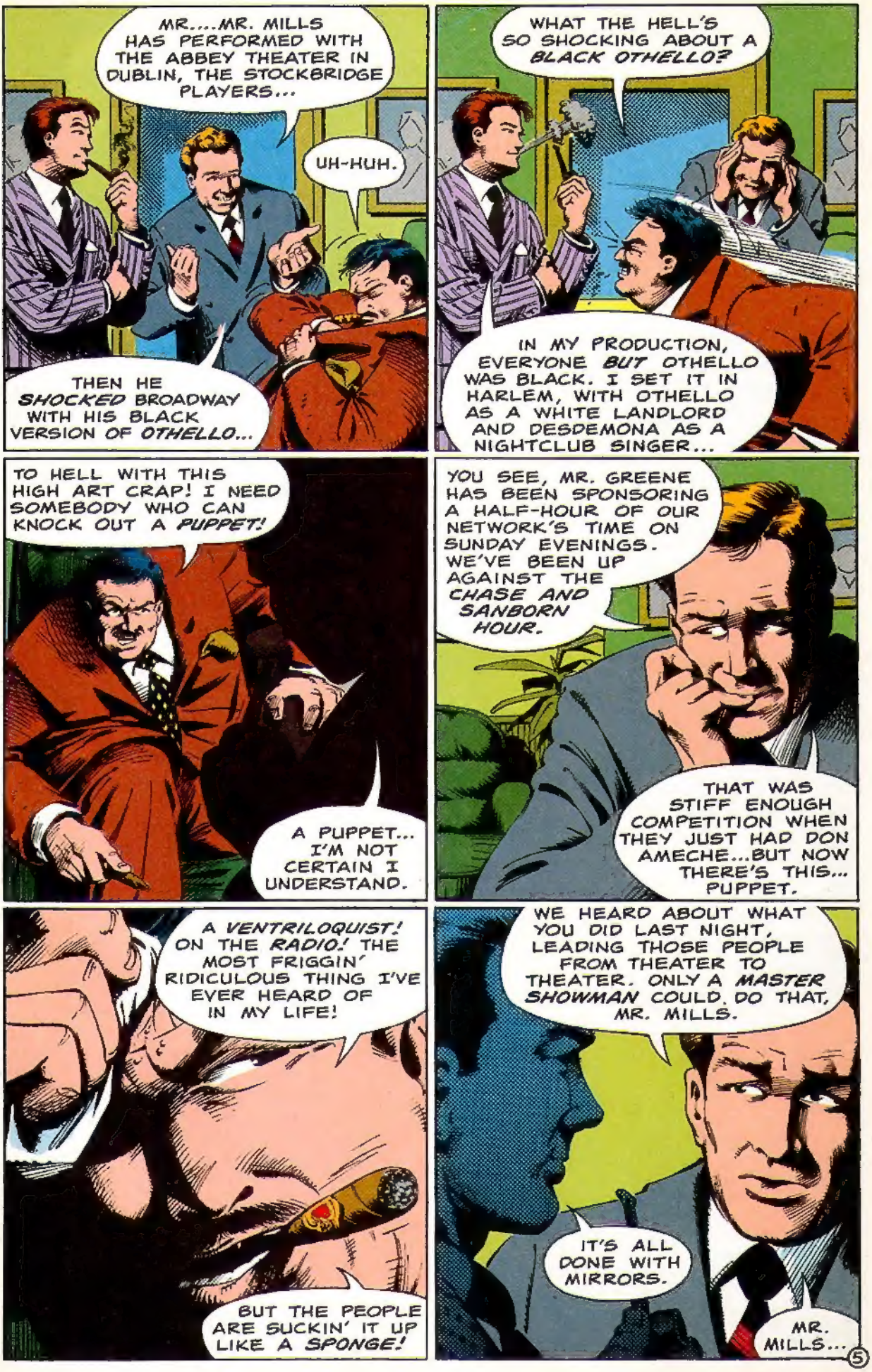
THE FORCES OF IGNORANCE HAVE CONSPIRED TO CLOSE THIS PLAY...
...HOPING TO SEND YOU OFF INTO THE NIGHT UNENLIGHTENED... AND CAST THIS MODEST DRAMATIC COMPANY ONTO THE RUBBISH HEAP OF THEATRICAL ANONYMITY!
GROVER!
IN SUCH A CASE, LESSER THEATERS WOULD SIMPLY REFUND THE PRICE OF YOUR TICKETS...
...BUT WE WOULD NOT INSULT YOU SO!
BABY SPOT!
WILL YOU FOLLOW US? WILL YOU FOLLOW THAT BRILLIANT PLAYWRIGHT OF THE PEOPLE, SINCLAIR BECKSTEIN, WHO HAS AUTHORED THIS MASTERPIECE, OH, BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?
OR THAT IMPASSIONED MUSE OF THE NEW THEATER, AGATHA GOODLOVE?
OR EVEN YOUR HUMBLE DIRECTOR AND LEADING MAN... GROVER MILLS?
FOLLOW ME TO ANOTHER THEATER... A THEATER DEVOTED TO FREEDOM OF THE FOOTLIGHTS, WHICH HAS BEEN COURAGEOUS ENOUGH TO LOAN US ITS FACILITIES FOR THIS HISTORY-MAKING PRODUCTION!
FOLLOW ME ON A QUEST FOR TRUTH!
GET ON THE PHONE. FIND ME AN EMPTY THEATRE--ANY-WHERE! TELL THEM GROVER MILLS WILL GET THEM MENTIONED IN EVERY NEWS-PAPER IN NEW YORK!
THEN CATCH UP TO ME AND TELL ME WHERE THE HELL TO TAKE THESE PEOPLE!
IT HAS BEEN AN ORDINARY EVENING IN TIMES SQUARE. HE HAS SEEN NO IMAGE THAT IS NOT ALREADY BURNED INTO HIS MEMORY.

TO CLOUD MEN'S MINDS

GERARD JONES, WRITER • RICK MAGYAR, ARTIST PGS. 1-16
FRANK SPRINGER, ARTIST PGS. 17-24 • JOHN CLARK, LETTERER
ANTHONY TOLLIN, COLORIST • BRIAN AUGUSTYN, EDITOR.

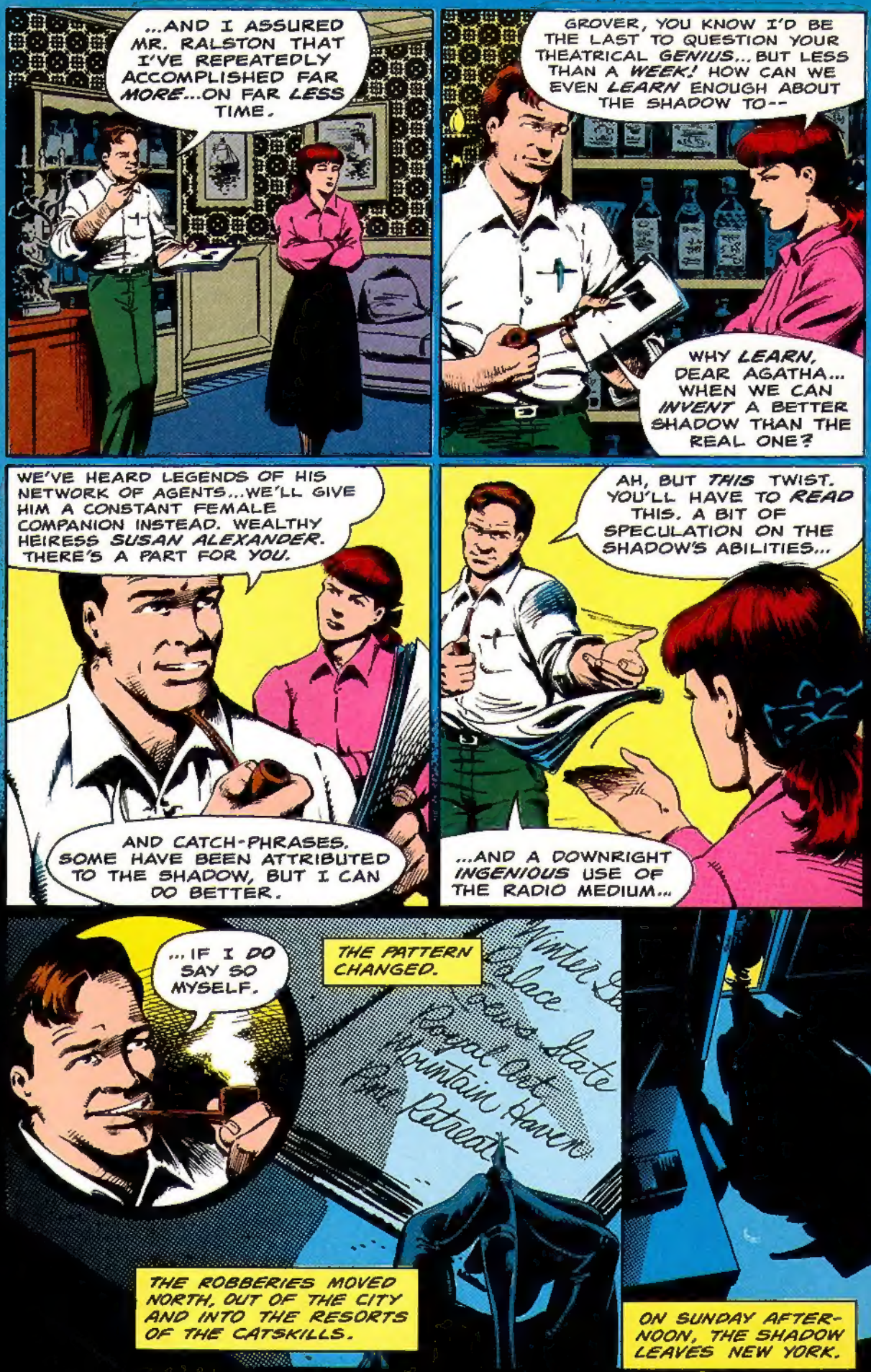
IT IS ENOUGH TO GIVE THE SHADOW PAUSE. BUT ONLY FOR A MOMENT.
W.46 ST.
PLAYHOUSE
PLAYART
HOLD-UP MEN HAVE BEEN PREYING ON THE BOX OFFICES OF THEATERS LATELY. THEY ARE HIS QUARRY.
WELL WELL WELL...
WHAT IS IT, GROVER?
NOTHING, DEAR AGATHA. JUST THE MOMENTARY, HAUNTING FEAR...
THAT I MIGHT NOT BE THE GREATEST SHOWMAN IN NEW YORK TONIGHT.

NIGHT BRINGS GOSSIP. MORNING BRINGS NEWSPAPERS AND TELEPHONE CALLS.
STATION WOW
HOME OF THE COMBINED BROADCASTING NETWORK
AND HASTY APPOINTMENTS.
THANK YOU FOR COMING ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, MR. MILLS. YOU SEE, WE NEED TO TAKE QUICK ACTION.
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO MR. GREENE... OF THE GREENE COAL COMPANY, YOU KNOW...
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT... GROVER MILLS.
SO, YOU'RE THE BOY WIZARD, HUH?


MR....MR. MILLS HAS PERFORMED WITH THE ABBEY THEATER IN DUBLIN, THE STOCKBRIDGE PLAYERS...
UH-HUH.
THEN HE SHOCKED BROADWAY WITH HIS BLACK VERSION OF OTHELLO...
WHAT THE HELL'S SO SHOCKING ABOUT A BLACK OTHELLO?
IN MY PRODUCTION, EVERYONE BUT OTHELLO WAS BLACK. I SET IT IN HARLEM, WITH OTHELLO AS A WHITE LANDLORD AND DESDEMONA AS A NIGHTCLUB SINGER...
TO HELL WITH THIS HIGH ART CRAP! I NEED SOMEBODY WHO CAN KNOCK OUT A PUPPET!
A PUPPET... I'M NOT CERTAIN I UNDERSTAND.
YOU SEE, MR. GREENE HAS BEEN SPONSORING A HALF-HOUR OF OUR NETWORK'S TIME ON SUNDAY EVENINGS. WE'VE BEEN UP AGAINST THE CHASE AND SANBORN HOUR.
THAT WAS STIFF ENOUGH COMPETITION WHEN THEY JUST HAD DON AMECHE...BUT NOW THERE'S THIS... PUPPET.
A VENTRILOQUIST! ON THE RADIO! THE MOST FRIGGIN' RIDICULOUS THING I'VE EVER HEARD OF IN MY LIFE!
BUT THE PEOPLE ARE SUCKIN' IT UP LIKE A SPONGE!
WE HEARD ABOUT WHAT YOU DID LAST NIGHT, LEADING THOSE PEOPLE FROM THEATER TO THEATER. ONLY A MASTER SHOWMAN COULD DO THAT, MR. MILLS.
IT'S ALL DONE WITH MIRRORS.
MR. MILLS...

WE NEED A MASTER SHOWMAN!
WE NEED A MAN WHO CAN PULL PEOPLE AWAY FROM THAT CHATTERING WOODPILE ON NBC AND MAKE SUNDAY EVENINGS WORTH *SPONSORING* AGAIN. CAN YOU *DO* THAT, MR. MILLS?
IT HAPPENS I *HAVE* HAD SOME IDEAS FOR POPULAR RADIO DRAMAS.
IF YOU WANT ONE, HOWEVER, YOU'LL *ALSO* HAVE TO PROMISE ME SOMETHING CLOSER TO MY HEART. I'VE BEEN WORKING UP A PRODUCTION OF *HAMLET* SET IN A GREEK DINER...
ANYTHING, MR. MILLS. WE'LL BROADCAST IT ANYTIME YOU WANT.
BUT FOR SUNDAY NIGHT, MR. MILLS... WHAT DO YOU HAVE?
THE SHADOW.
THE...THE SHADOW? BUT...BUT HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY GET HIS PERMISSION?
DO WE... *NEED* IT?
WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THIS SHADOW? HE'S A LEGEND WHOSE EXISTENCE HAS NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED. THE *POLICE COMMISSIONER* DENIES IT OUTRIGHT!

HE'S SAID TO BE A MASTER OF DISGUISE, OF MISDIRECTION AND CHOREOGRAPHED DECEPTION, OF SECRET ENTRY AND ESCAPE...
...IN SHORT, MR. RALSTON, A TYPE I KNOW ALL *TOO* WELL...
...A *STAGE MAGICIAN.*
I ASSURE YOU, SIR, THAT EVEN IF THIS SHADOW *DOES* EXIST, HE WOULDN'T BE THE SORT TO HIT US WITH A LAWSUIT.
NO. IT...IT'S TOO *RISKY.* WHAT IF HE'S A *CRIMINAL?* WHAT IF HE'S A BAD EXAMPLE TO YOUNG PEOPLE? WHAT IF THE *LEGION OF DECENCY* DOESN'T LIKE HIM?
NO, I'M SORRY, MR. MILLS, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING--
I LIKE IT.
CAN YOU HAVE A PROGRAM READY FOR ME BY THIS SUNDAY?


...AND I ASSURED MR. RALSTON THAT I'VE REPEATEDLY ACCOMPLISHED FAR *MORE*...ON FAR *LESS* TIME.
GROVER, YOU KNOW I'D BE THE LAST TO QUESTION YOUR THEATRICAL *GENIUS*... BUT LESS THAN A *WEEK!* HOW CAN WE EVEN *LEARN* ENOUGH ABOUT THE SHADOW TO--
WHY *LEARN*, DEAR AGATHA... WHEN WE CAN *INVENT* A BETTER SHADOW THAN THE REAL ONE?
WE'VE HEARD LEGENDS OF HIS NETWORK OF AGENTS...WE'LL GIVE HIM A CONSTANT FEMALE COMPANION INSTEAD. WEALTHY HEIRESS *SUSAN ALEXANDER*. THERE'S A PART FOR *YOU*.
AND CATCH-PHRASES. SOME HAVE BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO THE SHADOW, BUT I CAN DO BETTER.
AH, BUT *THIS* TWIST. YOU'LL HAVE TO *READ* THIS. A BIT OF SPECULATION ON THE SHADOW'S ABILITIES...
...AND A DOWNRIGHT *INGENIOUS* USE OF THE RADIO MEDIUM...
...IF I *DO* SAY SO MYSELF.
THE PATTERN CHANGED.
THE ROBBERIES MOVED NORTH, OUT OF THE CITY AND INTO THE RESORTS OF THE CATSKILLS.
ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, THE SHADOW LEAVES NEW YORK.

ON SUNDAY EVENING, A NEW SHADOW ENTERS.
TONIGHT YOUR LOCAL GREENE COAL DEALER BRINGS YOU THE THRILLING ADVENTURES OF... THE SHADOW!
WHO SEES THE DARKNESS IN THE SOULS OF MEN? THE SHADOW SEES!
WOW
WOW
HIS ENTRY IS WELL-ATTENDED.
...MYSTERIOUS DEFENDER OF LAW AND ORDER, IS IN REALITY CRUSADING NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER WALTER THATCHER. YEARS AGO IN THE FAR EAST, THATCHER DISCOVERED A MYSTERIOUS SECRET...
BUT NOT ONLY BY THE BEST OF PEOPLE.
...THE POWER TO CLOUD MEN'S MINDS... SO THAT THEY CANNOT SEE HIM!
Tiny
YOU READY, TINY?
...LOVELY SUSAN ALEXANDER IS THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THE IDENTITY OF THE INVISIBLE CRUSADER...
HEY, TINY! WE GOT A JOB, REMEMBER?
I CAN'T DO IT, FERRET. I CAN'T DO IT. COPS WAS BAD ENOUGH. BUT NOT THIS. I CAN'T GO UP AGAINST THIS...

...NOT AN IMVISIBLE MAN!
WHAT? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU--
THE RADIO AGAIN! HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU ABOUT THE RADIO?
IT'S THE SHADOW, FERRET! THE SHADOW!
...REMEMBER GREENE COAL, AMERICA'S FAVORITE ANTHRACITE.
IT'S JUST A SHOW! IT'S AN ACTOR!
SMASH!
NO! I HEARD ABOUT THE SHADOW BEFORE! ONLY I NEVER HEARD HE WAS IMVISIBLE!
TINY...BUDDY...LISTEN TO ME. YOU KNOW I CARE ABOUT YOU, RIGHT? HECK, YOU'RE THE BEST STRONG-ARM MAN A GUY EVER KNEW!
TO BURN CLEAN... BURN GREENE!
AND YOU KNOW I'D NEVER LIE TO YOU. NOBODY CAN BE INVISIBLE...NOT EVEN THE SHADOW. AND I DON'T EVEN THINK THERE IS A SHADOW.
NOW, WE GOTTA CONQUER THESE FEARS OF YOURS. SO NEXT WEEK, WE FORGET THE CATSKILLS. FORGET THE REGULAR THEATERS. THAT RADIO STATION SELLS TICKETS, IT'LL HAVE MONEY. WE GO RIGHT TO IT, KNOCK IT OVER. AND YOU'LL SEE. NO INVISIBLE MAN'S GOING TO COME AFTER US
ARE YOU... SURE, FERRET?
YOU GOTTA TRUST ME, TINY. TRUST OLD FERRET, JUST ONCE.
NOW, YOU SIT HERE AND CALM DOWN. AND YOU LISTEN TO THIS NICE LITTLE PUPPET.
...YOU DON'T FOOL ME, BERGEN. I SAW YOUR LIPS MOVE!

HE RETURNS WITH NO CLUES. THE PATTERN HAS BEEN BROKEN, THE THIEVES LIE LOW.
BUT HIS AGENTS HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN HIS ABSENCE, AND HAVE LEFT INFORMATION AT THE DROP-POINT.
B'ZOWS
MICROPHONE MUSINGS
by RICHARD PIERSON
Combined Broadcasting's new mystery drama, "The Shadow," got off to a strong start Sunday night. Although no threat yet to beloved dummy Ch... McCarthy, telephone surveys ndicated it attracted more steners than the next highest- ed program during its time
MICROPH... MUSI...
INFORMATION HE DID NOT EXPECT.
SUNDAY NIGHT COMES AGAIN. A LARGER STUDIO AUDIENCE VISITS COMBINED BROADCASTING THIS WEEK.
COMBINED ...DCASTING WORK
WOW
STATION WOW COMBINED BROADCASTING
TONITE
NOT A BAD CROWD. LOTSA TICKET SALES.
ARE YOU SURE IT'LL BE OKAY, FERRET?
SHUT UP AND EAT, WILLYA? I GOT IT ALL FIGURED. RIGHT AFTER THE SHOW, IN THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR AND OUT THROUGH THE SIDE...
STATION WOW
DUKE DUNCEFORD
THE PROGRAM BEGINS, AND ENDS, WITHOUT INCIDENT.
WOW
...IF CRIME YOU PLANT, THEN CRIME YOU REAP! THE SHADOW SEES ALL!
HAHAHAHAHAH

AHAHAHAHAHA!
THERE'S NEVER BEEN AN ECHO HERE...
I NEED TO MAKE A TELEPHONE CALL BEFORE DRIVING YOU HOME, AGATHA.
FINE. I'LL MEET YOU ON THE STREET, BY THE SIDE DOOR.
TELEPHONE
...ABSOLUTELY NEED BETTER SCRIPTING. I WONDER IF I CAN FIND SOMEONE GOOD...WHO'LL WORK FOR NO CREDIT?
STAGE
MAYBE I SHOULD GIVE OLD GINKY A...
ANOTHER GRAND SHOW, GROVER! JUST GRAND!
WOW
SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT THAT ECHO FROM THE RAFTERS!
AAAAA
AH...
YES, GOTHAM'S NEWEST RADIO SENSATION... HIMSELF.
THIS IS AN HONOR. YOU'VE HEARD OUR LITTLE PROGRAM, I SUPPOSE?
I HAVE HEARD.
AND I HAVE HEARD THE LAST OF IT!

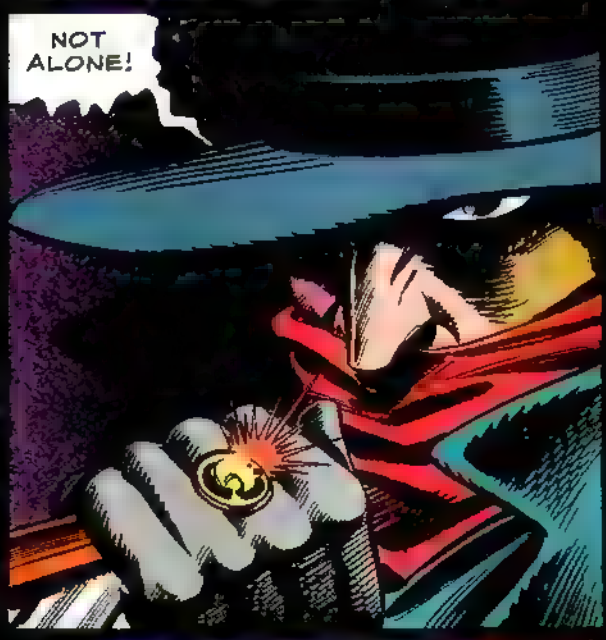
GROVER MILLS, WHAT'S KEEPING YOU NOW?
COMBINED BROADCASTING NETWORK
STATION WOW
OKAY, TINY. HERE'S WHERE YOU LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT YOUR "SHADOW."
WE ARE MASTERS OF THE SAME ARTS, YOU AND I. MISDIRECTION, SURPRISE...CHANGES OF FACE... TRICKERY ENLISTED IN THE CAUSE OF DRAMA... MAKING PEOPLE BELIEVE WHAT SHOULD NOT BE BELIEVABLE.
WE SHOULD WORK TOGETHER.
YOUR PROGRAM HURTS MY WORK. YOU WILL NEVER BROADCAST IT AGAIN.
NO...NO, OF COURSE NOT! IT'S TIME I RETURNED TO THE STAGE, ANYWAY.
I'VE EVEN BEEN THINKING ABOUT HOLLYWOOD.
BUT... IF I MAY, SHADOW...
ONE QUESTION.
YES?
DO YOU DO YOUR OWN MAKE-UP?

ALL THE RECEIPTS! QUICK!
BOX OFFICE
...HAVE TO DRAG HIM OUT.
HUH. I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. I GUESS THERE IS NO--
JUST GO! GET TO THE CA--
EXIT
OH!
AGATHA WILL BE FURIOUS, OF COURSE. BUT AT LEAST I HAVE A STORY WORTH--
LET US GO OR WE KILL HER!
14

THROW DOWN YOUR WEAPONS!
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
IT'S HIM!
IT'S NOT! JUST GO!
IT'S THE SHADOW! JUST LIKE ON THE RADIO!
LET ME GO!
AGATHA!
BAM!
SPEEYEW!
SCREEEE
AGATHA...

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M GOING TO FOLLOW THEM! I'M GOING TO CATCH THEM! I'M GOING TO--

NO...
YOU COULD NEVER DO IT...


NOT ALONE!

IT *WAS* HIM! IT *WAS* THE SHADOW!
I'M TELLING YOU IT WAS JUST SOME COP IN A RAIN SLICKER!
JUST SHUT UP AND *DRIVE*--GIMME TIME TO SEE IF ANYBODY'S FOLLOWING US!

BUT IF THE SHADOW'S FOLLOWING US, FERRET... MAYBE WE WON'T BE ABLE TO *SEE* HIM!
SHUT UP!

THERE! THERE THEY ARE!
CANAL STREET! THEY'LL BE CROSSING THE BRIDGE. TO BROOKLYN.
THERE IS SOMEBODY BACK THERE, DAMN IT!
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS, YOU KNOW.
THE HELL WE WON'T! TO FLATBUSH AVENUE! I KNOW WHERE WE CAN LOSE 'EM!
THE ROUTE IS LONG, THE FLEEING CAR MAKES MANY TURNS...
...BUT THE SHADOW SENSES THE TURNS, SEES THE CAR BEFORE IT CAN BE SEEN, AND REMAINS ON ITS TRAIL...
...ALL THE WAY TO CONEY ISLAND.
CYCLONE
HE'S STILL THERE! IT'S GOTTA BE THE--
STOP HERE! I KNOW WHERE TO GO! I HID HERE BEFORE!
TEEPLECHASE PARK

IN THERE! THEY'LL NEVER GET US WHERE WE'RE GOING!
HALL of MIRRORS
5¢
WE'VE LOST THEM, WE'VE--
NO. I HEAR A SOUND. CRACKING WOOD. A DOOR BEING BROKEN.
FROM THERE.
THE FUN HOUSE.
AND WHERE MORE APPROPRIATE?
YOU GET IT NOW? EVEN IF THEY FIND US HERE, THEY DON'T HAVE A CHANCE!
THEY WON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE LOOKING AT! THEY CAN'T SHOOT-- MIGHT HIT THE WOMAN! OR MAYBE JUST HIT A MIRROR--
BUT I CASED THIS PLACE! I KNOW WHERE THE MIRRORS ARE!

BUT THE SHADOW-- THE MIRRORS WON'T SHOW HIM IF HE'S--
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS INVISIBLE! NOW GET YOUR GAT UP... I HEAR SOMEBODY!
AND DON'T YOU MAKE A PEEP!
ALL SOUNDS SEEM TO DIE.
YET EVEN THEN THE SHADOW FINDS A SOUND TO FOLLOW.
HALL

BAM!
KSSHH!
YAAAA!
NO!
MY STUPID PARTNER MAY NOT KNOW WHAT'S REAL, BUT I DO.
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE...BUT I KNOW WHERE YOU ARE. I'M AIMING AT YOU.
AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHICH IS ME, DO YOU?
BOOM!
KSSHH!

BAM!
WE HAVE TO GET THEM. AGATHA IS--
EXIT
I AM AT A DISADVANTAGE. TOO EASILY SEEN.
I HAVE LOST PATIENCE WITH THIS. I SEE THAT I MUST RESORT TO OTHER MEANS!
START SLIPPING TOWARD THE BACK. I KNOW A WAY OUT OF HERE. WHILE WE HOLD 'EM OFF WITH...
TOO EASILY--

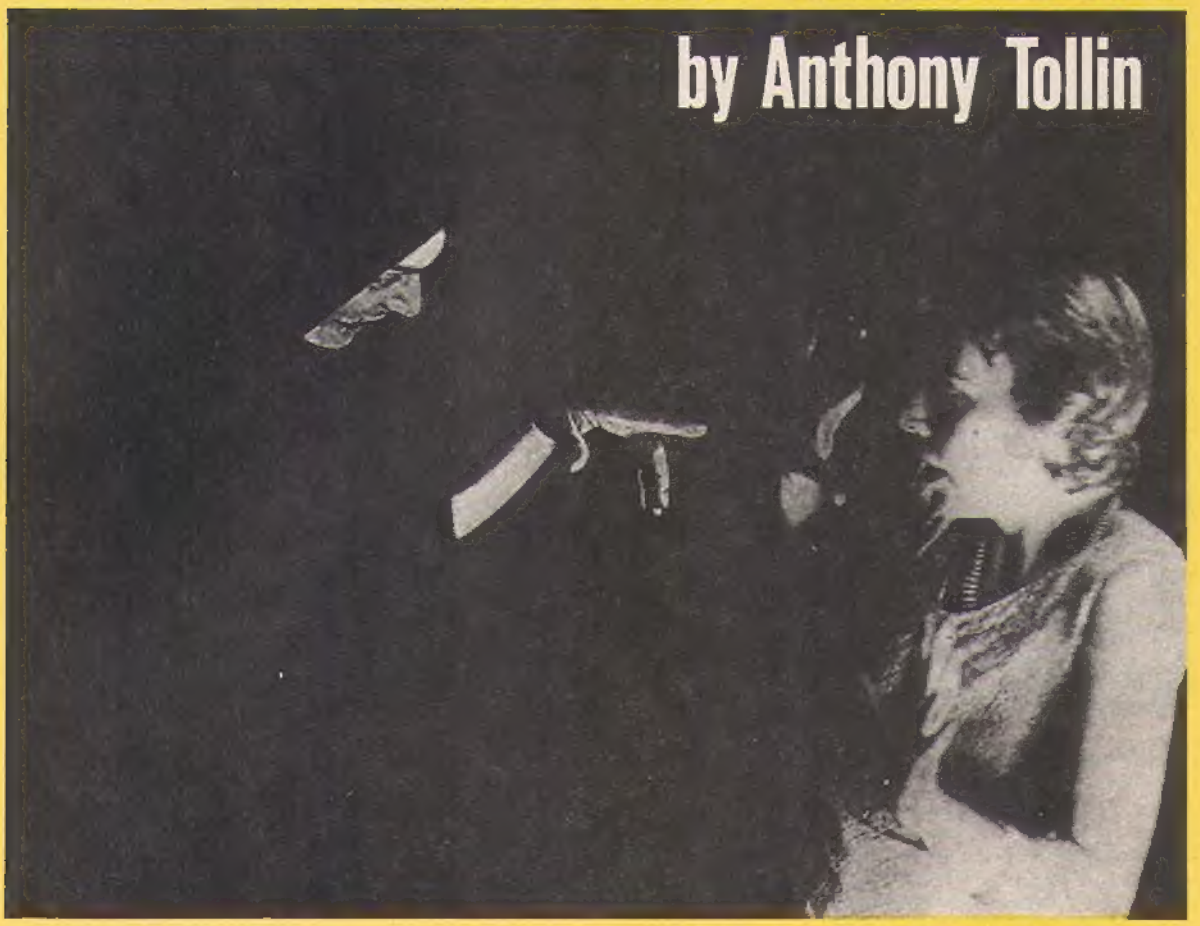
YOU HAVE HEARD ME ON THE RADIO. YOU KNOW I HAVE THE POWER TO CLOUD MEN'S MINDS!
YOU KNOW THAT I MIGHT WALK AMONG YOU EVEN NOW... UNSEEN!
I WAS RIGHT! I WAS RIGHT!
OF COURSE HE WAS, YOU FOOL! I'VE BEEN SILENT UNTIL NOW BECAUSE OF MY VOW OF SECRECY...
BUT I WORK WITH THE SHADOW EVERY SUNDAY! I'VE SEEN HIM TURN INVISIBLE!
NO. IT'S NOT POSSIBLE. NOBODY CAN DO THAT.
WILL YOU TEST ME? CAN YOU HEAR THAT MY VOICE GROWS CLOSER...
...CLOSER...
...CLOSER!
NO!
THERE!
BAM!
BAM!
KREESH!

NOW--OVER THERE!
GET AWAY! GET AWAY!
BAM! BAM! BAM!
EXIT
BA-BA-BA-BOOM!
SKLESH!
OF MIRROR
I'LL HAVE TO REMEMBER THIS.

THAT WAS EVEN MORE BRILLIANT THAN USUAL, GROVER.
DON'T HURT ME.
THANK YOU, DEAR.
HOW DID YOU LEARN TO PROJECT YOUR VOICE SO WELL, MILLS?
JUST A LITTLE TRICK I LEARNED BETWEEN PERFORMANCES OF THE BARD.
THERE ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE A PLACE IN SHOW-BUSINESS FOR A GOOD VENTRILOQUIST. EVEN ON RADIO.
MILLS...
...IT SEEMS YOU MIGHT AID ME AFTER ALL...IN MAKING THE SHADOW AN EVEN GREATER SOURCE OF TERROR TO THE UNDERWORLD THAN HE IS ALREADY. AND *TERROR* IS MY GREATEST WEAPON.
YOU MAY *CONTINUE* WITH YOUR PROGRAM.
I THANK YOU, SIR. ALTHOUGH I DOUBT THAT VERY MANY CRIMINALS WILL BE AS GULLIBLE AS THIS.
WITH PROPER FORCE...AND SUBTLETY... PEOPLE CAN BE MADE TO BELIEVE *ANYTHING*... SHORT, PERHAPS, OF AN INVASION FROM MARS.
HMMMM...
...YES, YES...
ANYTHING *SHORT* OF THAT, YOU SAY?
THE END

VOICES FROM THE SHADOWS

by Anthony Tollin



James LaCurto (above) became the first actor to portray The Shadow in 1930 and returned to the series in 1946 as Shrevvie, the cabby. LaCurto's cowled countenance was featured on the early covers of The Shadow magazine. Frank Readick Jr. (below) made the role his own, creating a haunting laugh and a whispered voice dripping with poisonous venom.

"Your announcer...is The Shadow!"

The voice, sibilant and sinister, thrilled radio listeners from the moment it was first heard over the CBS network on July 31, 1930, introducing tales of mystery and suspense from the new issue of *Street & Smith's Detective Story Magazine*. "The Shadow knows," proclaimed the phantom voice, "but you won't, unless you listen as *Street & Smith's Detective Story Magazine* relates for you the story of..."

James LaCurto, the first actor to intone The Shadow's famous lines and laugh, surrendered the soon-to-be-famous role after only a few broadcasts to appear on Broadway. His successor, Frank Readick Jr., was promoted from the ranks of the show's dramatic cast, having alternated between heroic and villainous roles in the premiere episodes of the Detective Story Hour. Readick's venomous performances soon made The Shadow a national sensation, and Street & Smith quickly capitalized on the success of their famous phantom announcer, rushing into print a new magazine (written by Walter B. Gibson) and authorizing a series of film shorts.

The Shadow's popularity had become so great that he returned to host a new CBS series, *Street & Smith's Love Story Hour*, after *Detective Story Hour* had run its course. "What a loss to fandom," protested a Radio Guide columnist, "when The Shadow tottered from his underworld throne into those Street &

Carl Frank, announcer Ken Roberts, Orson Welles, director Bourne Ruthrauff and Everett Sloane (in background) prepare for a 1938 Shadow broadcast.

Smith love stories." The Shadow was soon restored to his ominous ways when he was selected to host the mystery contests on the *Blue Coal Radio Revue*. The Sunday night broadcasts began The Shadow's two-decade association with sponsor Blue Coal and introduced announcer Ken Roberts and the character of Blue Coal's heating expert, John Barclay, both of whom would remain fixtures on the Shadow broadcasts for years to come.

The Shadow earned a short-lived CBS series of his own in January of 1932, then moved over to NBC the following October. Frank Readick's sinister laughter continued to thrill his radio audiences and, after a year's hiatus, The Shadow returned to CBS to narrate a final series of twice-weekly mystery dramatizations. Radio's famous phantom announcer faded from the airwaves at the end of the 1934-35 season, reportedly due to creative differences between Street & Smith and the program's sponsor.

A revamped Shadow series, inspired by Walter B. Gibson's pulp novels, made its debut over the new Mutual Broadcasting System on September 26, 1937. "Lamont Cranston, a man of wealth, a student of science, and a master of other people's minds, devotes his life to righting wrongs, solving crimes, protecting the innocent, and punishing the guilty," proclaimed announcer Ken Roberts in the program's standard opening. "Using advanced methods that may ultimately become available to all law-enforcement agencies, Cranston is known to the underworld as The Shadow; never seen, only heard—a seemingly supernatural nemesis—as haunting to supernatural minds as a ghost; as inevitable as a guilty conscience."

The radio Shadow's "advanced methods" included telepathy, mind control, and "the hypnotic power to cloud men's minds so they cannot see him." The Shadow's "strange and mysterious secret" made him the perfect radio super-hero, as invisible and ethereal as the airwaves themselves.

The young Orson Welles became the first actor to portray the dual roles of The Shadow and Lamont Cranston in the revived series, although the opening and closing signatures continued to feature recorded transcriptions of Readick's

Bill Johnstone replaced Welles as The Shadow in 1938 and played the role for five seasons.

Agnes Moorehead (with Bill Johnstone, above) was the first actress to portray "the lovely Margo Lane."

Margot Stevenson was the prototype for Margo Lane and played the role opposite Orson Welles.

venomous intonations and haunting laughter. Appearing with the 22-year-old Welles on the Shadow broadcasts were many of the performers who would join him in the famous Mercury Theatre troupe that would soon revolutionize theater, radio and film. Ray Collins portrayed Commissioner Weston while Paul Stewart doubled as Inspector Cardona and reporter Clyde Burke. Other series regulars included Dwight Weist, Everett Sloane, Kenny Delmar and Alan Reed (later the voice of television's Fred Flintstone).

"The lovely Margo Lane," an original character created for the revived series by producer Clark Andrews, was inspired in part by Margot Stevenson, a popular Broadway ingenue then starring in "You Can't Take It With You." Agnes Moorehead originated the role opposite Welles during the Blue Coal winter season, while Margot Stevenson stepped in to portray The Shadow's "friend and companion" during the syndicated summer season (sponsored by Goodrich Tires).

Bill Johnstone, a veteran member of The Shadow supporting cast, donned the Shadow's cloak when Welles' expanding Mercury Theatre commitments forced his departure from the series in the fall of 1938. Agnes Moorehead returned for a final season as Margo Lane before the role of Cranston's "friend and companion" was taken over by Marjorie Anderson. By the end of Johnstone's first season, The Shadow had moved into the top spot in the daytime radio ratings race, a position the series would dominate for the next fifteen years. Bill Johnstone portrayed Lamont Cranston for five suspenseful seasons, always arriving in the nick of time to rescue Margo from the evil clutches of that week's homicidal maniac to proclaim that "The weed of crime bears bitter fruit. Crime does not pay. The Shadow knows!"

John Archer took to the shadows to portray Lamont Cranston during the 1944-45 season.

Bret Morrison, formerly radio's *Mr. First Nighter,* won the famous role with a cold reading of The Shadow's opening and closing signatures, defeating more than a hundred actors who had turned out for the auditions. "At the audition I read the lines the way I always remembered hearing it," he recalled years later. "Of course they always tell you to do it your own way, but they always end up hiring someone who sounds exactly like what they had before." Morrison initially portrayed the title role for only one season before leaving the series for reasons lost to the shadows of time.

John Archer, a popular Hollywood leading man, took over the Shadowy role for the 1944-45 season, with Judith Allen joining the cast as the new Margo Lane. Many of the scripts during Archer's season featured a science fiction slant, not surprising considering that most were written by noted s.f. author Alfred Bester (who also penned many golden age adventures of Batman and the original Green Lantern). The following season opened with Broadway actor Steve Courtleigh as Cranston and Laura Mae Carpenter as Margo. The newcomers were replaced after only six episodes when Bret Morrison returned to the series with his longtime friend Lesley Woods as the new Margo Lane. Morrison, a sophisticated and versatile actor, continued to portray The Shadow for the next decade, appearing in almost as many broadcasts as all the other Shadows combined. To a generation of radio listeners, Bret Morrison *was* The Shadow.

Grace Matthews, radio's *Big Sister,* joined the Shadow cast in 1946, portraying "the lovely Margo Lane" for the final three years of the program's Blue Coal run. The Shadow lost his longtime sponsor when the anthracite coal market collapsed in 1949, but continued to subdue murderous fiends for another five years with other sponsors, aided by Gertrude Warner, the last and longest-lasting of the radio Margo Lanes.

The Shadow broadcasts left the airwaves on December 21, 1954, nearly 25 years after *Street & Smith's Detective Story Hour* had introduced radio's foremost mystery man to the American public. The sinister laughter that had thrilled radio listeners for a quarter of a century had at last been silenced.

Bret Morrison (pictured with Grace Matthews as Margo) played The Shadow for more than a decade, appearing in more than 400 episodes.

Gertrude Warner took over as Margo Lane in 1949 and appeared opposite Bret Morrison in nearly 300 broadcasts on the Mutual network.